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Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 USIA-15 /029 W
---------- 016083
R 201215Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY MANAMA BAHRAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHINGTON DC 1975
INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT KUWAIT

UNCLAS MANAMA 0344

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS : OEXC, BA
SUBJECT : ALTERNATES FOR FY 1975 IV GRANTEE H.E.
ABDULLAH BIN KHALID AL-KHALIFA

REF : STATE 055773

1. AMBASSADOR PRODDED MINISTER SHAIKH ABDULLAH MARCH 20, EXPLAINING URGENT NEED TO PLAN HIS PROPOSED VISIT. MINISTER SAID HE HAD NOT YET FELT ABLE TO SEEK APPROVAL HIS CABINET COLLEAGUES TO TAKE OFF TIME REQUIRED FOR IV VISIT TO U.S. WHICH HE VERY MUCH WANTS TO MAKE. HE PROMISED TO TRY TO RAISE SUBJECT IN MARCH 25 CABINET MEETING AND TO GIVE US DEFINITE COMMITMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

2. MINISTER, WHO WILL BE HARD-PRESSED TO SPEND MUCH MORE THAN FOUR WEEKS IN U.S., HOPES TO MAKE VISIT IN JUNE, POSSIBLY FIRST WEEK OR SO IN JULY. HIS SPECIFIC INTEREST WILL BE TO STUDY AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENTS AND RELATED GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS IN THOSE PARTS OF THE U.S. WITH SOIL AND CLIMATIC CONDITIONS COMPARABLE TO BAHRAIN; I.E., HOT HUMID BUT SANDY AND WITH LITTLE RAINFALL. IN SHORT, PLACES WHERE PALM TREES GROW. POLICY MOTIVATION IS GOB'S NEED TO MODERNIZE AND PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR IN BAHRAIN, MORE PERHAPS FOR SOCIAL/POLITICAL REASONS THAN ON BASIS COMMERCIAL VALUE OF BAHRAIN'S AGRICULTURE SECTOR. RELATED QUESTION WHICH DIRECTLY CONCERNS MINISTER, WHO IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF MUNICIPALITIES AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS URBAN PLANNING COMMITTEE, IS HOW TO PRESERVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN BOOMING
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COMMUNITY OF QUARTER MILLION INHABITANTS WITH LIMITED LAND

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AND SOARING REAL ESTATE VALUES DICTATING EXPANSION RESIDENTIAL BUSINESS PROPERTY INTO TRADITIONALLY AGRICULTURAL AREAS. HENCE, IT WOULD SEEM PROGRAM SHOULD FOCUS ON BOTH TOWN PLANNING AND AGRICULTURAL PROBLEMS AND DEVELOPMENTS IN AREAS SUCH AS FLORIDA AND SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WHICH HAVE EXPERIENCED RECENT SOCIAL/ECONOMIC PROBLEMS NOT UNLIKE THOSE FACING BAHRAIN TODAY.

3. PLEASE SEE MANAMA 547 OF JULY 1974 FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON PROGRAM AND BASIC BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION WHICH IS STILL CURRENT. SHAIKH ABDULLAH IS ONE OF MORE SENIOR MEMBERS BAHRAIN'S RULING AL-KHALIFA FAMILY BUT HIS PRESTIGE AND INFLUENCE IN GOVERNMENT APPEAR TO RESULT MORE FROM LONG EXPERIENCE AS DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT WITH SENSIBLE BUT PROGRESSIVE APPROACH TO BAHRAIN'S DEVELOPMENT NEEDS.
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